

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

A Report of the Secretary of War,

Of the Expense which would be incurred by transporting two hundred of the troops
now at the Council Bluffs, to the mouth of the Columbia river.

FEBRUARY 23, 1824.

Read, and referred to the select committee appointed on the 29th December last, up-
on the subject of forming a settlement upon the Columbia river.

WASHINGTON:

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To the House of Representatives of the United States:

The House of Representatives, on the 26th ultimo, having "Resolved, that the President be requested to cause to be laid before the House an estimate of the expense which would be incurred by transporting two hundred of the troops now at the Council Bluffs, to the mouth of the Columbia, or Oregon river," I herewith transmit a report of the Secretary of War, which contains the information required.

JAMES MONROE.

WASHINGTON, 20th February, 1824.

To the House of Representatives of the United States

The House of Representatives on the 20th of June, 1894, received from the President a report in relation to the proposed extension of the Oregon and California Railroad, which would be financed by a loan of two hundred thousand dollars, and the Committee on the subject of the proposed extension of the Oregon and California Railroad, which contains the information requested.

JAMES MONROE

Washington, 20th February, 1894

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

February 17, 1824.

The Secretary of War, to whom was referred the resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 26th of January last, requesting the President of the United States to cause to be laid before this House "an estimate of the expense which would be incurred by transporting two hundred of the troops now at the Council Bluffs, to the mouth of the Columbia, or Oregon river," has the honor to transmit, herewith, a report of the Quartermaster General, which contains the information required.

Respectfully submitted.

J. C. CALHOUN,

The PRESIDENT of the United States.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,

Washington City, February 16, 1824.

SIR: In obedience to your order, dated the 30th ultimo, requiring an estimate of the probable expense of transporting two hundred of the troops, now at the Council Bluffs, on the Missouri river, to the mouth of Columbia, or Oregon river, I have the honor to report, that the expense will consist:

1st. Of an outfit of boats, and the necessary tools and materials to keep them in repair, to transport the detachment from the Council Bluffs to the head of navigation on the Missouri, or Yellow Stone river;

2. The number of horses necessary to transport the detachment, their provisions, and stores, from that place to some navigable point on the Columbia river, and tools to open a road and construct bridges on the route; and

3. The tools and materials necessary to enable them to construct boats to descend the Columbia.

I take it for granted that the ordnance, clothing, provisions, and all the heavy baggage, required for the use of the detachment, after it shall have arrived at its destination, will be transported by sea, and that no other supplies than those actually necessary on the march, will be taken across the Rocky Mountains. If so, the whole outfit, including arms, ammunition, and provisions, for twelve months, would not exceed one hundred and forty tons; to transport which ten boats, which, with all their equipments, would not exceed seven hundred dollars each, would be sufficient.

Fifteen hundred dollars would provide all the tools that would be required in opening a road and constructing bridges between the navigable points of the Missouri and the Columbia. And two hundred horses would be amply sufficient for the transportation over that route. These horses could be obtained from the Pawnees, near the Council Bluffs, or from the Mandans, at about thirty dollars each, in merchandise; and perhaps would not cost the Government more than fifteen or twenty dollars each in cash; at all events, not more than twenty-five dollars each.

Fifteen hundred dollars would provide all the tools and materials necessary to construct boats to descend the Columbia.

The necessary expense, then, incident to the movement, would be

For 10 boats, at \$700 each	-	-	-	7,000
Intrenching and other tools necessary on the march				1,500
200 horses, at 30 dollars each, in merchandise, say				
25 dollars each	-	-	-	5,000
Tools and materials for boats on the Columbia				1,500
				<hr/>
Total				15,000
Add an equal sum for unforeseen expenses				15,000
				<hr/>
And the whole amount required will be	-	-	-	\$30,000

To transport the heavy baggage, ordnance, and a supply of provisions, by sea, whaling or sealing vessels, or northwest traders, it is believed, might be chartered at about five or six thousand dollars each; two would be sufficient, say they would cost \$7,000 each; and the amount of sea transportation would be fourteen thousand dollars; making the entire expense of the operation, by land and water, forty-four thousand dollars.

Small as this estimate may appear, when we consider the magnitude of the object proposed to be accomplished, I feel confident that, if the operations be conducted by the military, it will be more than sufficient.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

TH. S. JESUP,

Brig. Gen. and Quartermaster General.

Hon. JOHN C. CALHOUN,

Secretary of War, Washington City.